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1920

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POEM BY

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FIN McCOOL

Long years ago in Ireland
When giants lived on earth
There was a jolly giant
Who always brimmed with mirth

So full of jokes and stories
And good deeds was this man
That all his neighbors loved him
And children to him ran

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Brave Fin McCool his name was
A baby girl he had
She saw the stars in heaven
And wanted one so bad

That Fin reached up and picked one
From out the milky way
And gave it to his baby
To use it in her play

Fin also was a bold one:
He always used to say
He would fight any giants
That ever came his way

In Scotland lived a giant
And he was very tall
His name was Cad MacCullagh
The biggest of them all.

This giant loved to quarrel.
Folks did not like him much.
The children all ran from him
The dogs and cats and such

His size was twice what Fins was
And he was twice as strong.
He heard what Fin McCool said
And vowed he'd prove him wrong

Cad started out for Ireland
To find this Fin McCool
To prove which was the better
To show Fin up a fool

A bridge there was in those days
From Scotland to Ireland.
They called it Giants' Causeway.
It stretched from land to land

Cad walked across the causeway
Upon a summers day.
And in the land of Erin
Continued on his way.

He stepped across the rivers.
He nearly reached the sky,
Fin saw his head appearing
Above the mountains high.

Fin cried out to his wife. Dear.
This great big giant man
Is coming here to fight me
I'll hide while yet I can.

Fin's wife said, no my darling
Don't worry, don't I say.
We'll get around this somehow
We'll surely find a way.

She took her sleeping baby
Up from her nice warm bed,
And hid her quite completely
'Neath hay in the cow shed.

Then one of her own nightgowns
She quickly slipped on Fin.
She put him in the baby's bed
And tightly tucked him in.

She then got out some flour
And made some bun's and cakes.
And half of them she baked just
As light as soft snow flakes.

The other half she gathered.
And placed in cakes and buns
A great big stone and baked them
Just like the other ones.

She left them in the oven,
And then sat down to wait.
Beside the bed and listened
For Cad's step at the gate.

At last Cad reached the cabin.
And asked for Fin McCool.
The wife said he has just gone out
Down to the fairies' pool.

There's only I and baby
At home this sunny day.
But please sit down and wait here,
And have some cakes I pray.

Thank you said Cad MacCullagh.
'Tis far from Scotlands shore.
I've walked and walked the daylong
I'm weary and foot sore.

The wife went to the oven
  Took out the buns and cakes
They're like, said Cad MacCullagh,
  The kind my mother makes

She gave one to the Scotchman
  His cake contained a stone.
Then she gave to the baby
  A nicely baked soft bun.

Fin dressed up as the baby
  Soon gulped his bun right down
While poor old Cad MacCullagh
  Straightway began to frown.

For when he bit into it
  He broke his teeth quite off
And some of them he swallowed,
  It made him sneeze and cough.

He said what kind of jawbone
Has your small baby there
Just let me feel his mouth pray
He has teeth like a bear.

And if Fins baby's like this
What must his father be.
I fear I've been mistaken
In coming o'er the sea.

He put his finger in then.
And Fin gave such bite.
He closed on Cad's first finger
And bit it clean off quite.

Cad yelled with pain and terror
And started on a run
Across the hills and valleys
As if shot from a gun.

And Fin McCool ran after.
He chased the giant man
The long full length of Ireland.
They fast and faster ran.

Cad reached the Giants Causeway
And halfway on its wall
He kicked out the big boulders
And quite destroyed it all.

And Fin was left there standing
Upon old Irelands shore.
And Cad went back to Scotland
And stayed there evermore.

And of the Giants' Causeway
That joined once the two lands.
That stretched across the ocean.
But one small fragment stands.

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